


Ser. No. 09/744,514
Response to Office Action of 27 May 2003
Atty Docket 117040-18

AMENDMENTS TO THE DISCLOSURE

Please amend the specification as follows:

[0010] Based on a fixing element as set forth in the appended claims ~~classifying portion of~~ claim 4, that object is attained by the features recited therein ~~in the characterizing portion of~~ claim 4.

 [0037] In that respect, at its leading distal end the spreading body 2 is of a transverse dimension which, in the non-spread condition, approximately corresponds to the transverse dimension of the operative surface 15.2 ~~45.4~~ defining the cavity 3, at the distal end of the second portion 1.2. In addition the transverse dimension of the cavity 3 increases from the distal end of the second portion 1.2 in the proximal direction to a greater degree per unit of length than the transverse dimension of the second stage 2.2 of the spreading body 2 from the distal end thereof. That provides that spreading of the second portion 1.2 of the fixing body 1 begins from the distal end thereof. That means that, in the spreading operation, in the second portion, the distribution of stresses achieved is as uniform as possible and thus local stress peaks are substantially avoided both in the fixing body and also in the bone.